

PERSHING OFF TO LEAD TROOPS ACROSS BORDER

Brigadier Joins 4000 Troops at Columbus to Lead First Expeditionary Force in Dash After Villa—Censorship in News—Bandit Reported Encircled by 15,000 Carranzas.

EL PASO, Tex., March 14.—Brigadier General John J. Pershing, commanding the American expeditionary force into Mexico, left here on a westbound train last night and since his departure military authorities have refused all information about him.

General Pershing's train was said here to be going to Columbus, N. M., where today some 4000 men of the first expeditionary force are in readiness for the dash after Villa.

Some hours after General Pershing left here, however, it became evident that military authorities in this section intended that no information should leak out about his further movements.

Censorship Enforced

Soon after General Pershing's departure last night the mass of detailed information which had been pouring in for several days from numerous border points west of here about details of troop movements was stopped. This was in line with the policy forecast by military authorities to keep secret any important troop movements.

No information reached here as to how soon movements in force might be expected. General Funston's announcement last night that the expedition was awaiting only the placing of adequate border patrols did not serve to clear up the question of when the troops will enter, for although considerable information has been obtained about gathering of units for the expeditionary column, the military authorities have effectively checked in secrecy their preparations for maintenance of a secondary line for patrol duty along the American border.

The shutdown on information from the border territory where the first large force had gathered was taken here to mean simply that the military authorities have completed their arrangement to try to keep Villa in the dark as to what pursuit he may expect.

Villa Encircled

Villa, heading south from Galeana, is now encircled by Carranza troops, according to advices from General Luis Gutierrez, commander-in-chief of Chihuahua, today. With 15,000 men in Chihuahua, and heavy reinforcements on their way from the division of General Calles in Sonora, he thinks Villa has small chance of escape.

General Gutierrez arrived in Juarez today and conferred with General Gavira, the local commandant, and Consul Garcia of El Paso. Afterward, General Gutierrez gave out a statement that besides the troops holding points and maintaining patrols, five columns of 1200 men each are closing in on the bandit chief under the respective commands of Gutierrez himself, and General Luis Her-

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PROMPT ACTION ENLARGES ARMY TO 120,000 MEN

Joint Resolution Introduced in House to Bring Regular Army Up to Fighting Strength—Mobile Army Raised From 33,000 to 50,000—Senate to Act Following House.

WASHINGTON, March 14.—Chairman Hay of the house military committee late today prepared for immediate introduction of the resolution to permit the president to raise the fighting strength of the standing army to 120,000 men at once.

The present strength of the army is about 87,000 men. The additional troops are desired to fill the places of men who may be withdrawn from their present locations for service in Mexico.

Representative Kahn said Secretary Baker went over the entire situation with Chairman Hay and himself and satisfied them that the men were needed. The secretary said that no new developments had come in the Mexican situation which would cause the department to desire to increase the standing force, but that army officials were convinced it would be best at this time to fill the places of soldiers leaving this country.

Increase Mobile Army

Secretary Baker later explained that it was proposed to increase all regiments of the mobile army to full strength, which would bring the total strength of the regular establishment up to approximately 120,000 men, including the quartermaster's corps, medical corps and other auxiliary troops. The strength of the mobile army would be raised from 33,000 to 50,000, which would be the number available for border duty. Less than 20,000 are now on duty on the Mexican border.

As the various arms of the service are now distributed as to personnel, the order would add 16,000 enlisted men to the infantry, 1100 to the field artillery and 2900 to the cavalry.

The text of the special joint resolution, which will be sent to the senate as soon as it passes the house, is as follows:

Joint Resolution

"Resolved, by the senate and house of representatives, in congress assembled, that whenever in the judgment of the president an emergency arises which makes it necessary all organizations of the army which are

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TURKISH MINISTER PROBABLY KILLED

ATHENS, March 14.—The Turkish legation which hitherto has denied absolutely the reports which have been in circulation concerning the assassination of Enver Pasha, Turkish minister of war, made this announcement today:

"We have no official advices concerning Enver Pasha."

UNITED STATES TROOPS EXPECTED TO BE IN PURSUIT OF FRANCISCO VILLA BY NIGHT



Gen. Villa, the fleeing bandit

GERMANY TO MAKE AMENDS IN SILIUS CASE

WASHINGTON, March 14.—Unofficial advices received here today indicate that Germany will make complete amends to the United States if it is found that a German submarine torpedoed the Norwegian bark Silius, from which seven Americans were rescued in Havre roads.

The German government is represented here as believing that a torpedo was not responsible for the loss of the bark and that any commander who attacks a neutral ship such as the Silius without warning would be exceeding his instructions.

The sinking of the Silius has been the cause of much concern here because American Consul Osborne at Havre reported that the ship was torpedoed without warning. His report was based on statements of American survivors. Officials are inclined to entertain the possibility that the ship might have been struck by a mine, but the case is being investigated further.

Today the state department received another report from Consul Osborne which made no mention of the cause of the sinking, merely saying that the vessel was unarmed, carried a cargo of grain and no passengers. Of the crew of seventeen members, only three perished. Among the victims was the captain, a Norwegian.

WASHINGTON, March 14.—The secret service today issued a warning against a counterfeit of the \$5 note of the San Francisco federal reserve bank which has appeared on the Pacific coast.

SIMS SAYS NAVY NEEDS POLICY OF MERIT PROMOTION

WASHINGTON, March 14.—Captain W. S. Sims of the battleship Nevada, told the house naval committee today of the need of immediate construction of eight or nine battle cruisers to meet Germany's battle cruiser strength. He also told of the prime necessity of a policy of promotion by selection for the grades of lieutenant, lieutenant commander, commander and captain, so as to put younger men in command of ships.

Captain Sims pointed out that in the British navy officers may attain a captain's rank at 55 years and become rear admiral at 45. The present commander in chief of the British navy, Admiral Jellicoe, he said, is about 44; American naval officers under the present system are close to sixty when they become rear admirals.

Captain Sims said Secretary Daniels was the first secretary of the navy upon whom those favoring promotion by selection had made any impression.

"If he puts it across," said the captain, "he will stand out above all other secretaries of the navy for it will mean a tremendous increase in naval efficiency."

The witness referred to what he called frightful mistakes in the turret designs of the Kentucky and other pre-dreadnaughts, whose sloping turret designs made them particularly vulnerable to long range fire under the changed gun fire conditions of recent years.

OBREGON NAMED WAR MINISTER BY CARRANZA

DOUGLAS, Ariz., March 14.—Tension in feeling on both sides of the border was noticeably eased today, General P. Elias Calles, commander-in-chief of Sonora, is only awaiting official confirmation from Carranza of the agreement between the American and Mexican governments before co-operating with General Funston's punitive force.

The appointment of Obregon as minister of war for Carranza is regarded with the greatest satisfaction by the Mexicans here, as they believe his appointment means the entire reorganization of the Mexican army and strengthening of its personnel.

It is known here that Calles probably had grave fears lest his troops get out of control, owing to sensational and often entirely unfounded reports from Douglas.

After learning from American sources the news of the amicable settlement, Calles last night took a special train to Cabullona, where he inspected troops and gave orders for their concentration, returning to Agua Prieta today.

All foreigners that could be got together at Nacoazari will arrive at the border on a special train today. The management of the El Tigre mine is so encouraged by the sudden change in feeling within the last 24 hours.

RIGID CENSORSHIP TO CONTROL WAR NEWS ON BORDER

SAN ANTONIO, Tex., March 14.—A rigid censorship was ordered established at Columbus, N. M., today by Major General Frederick Funston. He instructed Brigadier General Pershing, commanding there, to take command of the telegraph office, watch all automobile routes and guard telephone wires out of the town.

General Funston said that newspaper reports from New Mexico had been revealing every move of troops, the disposition of the various forces and the amount of their equipment.

"There was no use trying to conceal our plans here while there was a leak on the border," he explained. "We had to act."

It was indicated that if the censorship ordered today was evaded, martial law might be the next step in controlling the news situation at Columbus.

ASSOCIATED BILL POSTERS DECLARED A TRUST

CHICAGO, March 14.—The Associated Bill Posters of the United States and Canada was held to be a combination in restraint of trade by Federal Judge Landis today.

BIG GUNS ROAR DURING LULL IN VERDUN BATTLE

Spirited Cannonading West of Meuse—Bombardment Continues Violent in Region of Vaux and Damloup—Surprise Attack of Germans Repulsed—British Airship Winged.

PARIS, March 14.—Last night saw a continuance of the military activity on the Verdun front. West of the Meuse the cannonading was fairly violent and a reconnaissance on the part of the Germans in the wood of Haudremout was checked by the French, according to official announcement made in Paris this afternoon.

There was severe cannonading near Vaux and also in the Woivre district.

In the wood of Le Pretre a German detachment advancing on a French trench was driven back.

Text of Statement

The text of the statement follows: "West of the Meuse there was spirited cannonading last night. On the right bank of this stream a strong reconnaissance in the wood of Haudremout was checked by our curtain of fire. The bombardment continued violently in the region of Vaux and near Damloup.

In the Woivre, both the French and the German artillery have been active, particularly in the sector of Eix, but otherwise there is nothing of importance to report in this section.

In the forest of Le Pretre a detachment of Germans who endeavored to surprise our trenches at Croix des Carnes was resisted by a fusillade and compelled to disperse, leaving several dead on the field.

"The night passed quietly on the remainder of the front."

German Statement

BERLIN, March 14.—No important developments along the western front are recorded in the official communication of today, which follows:

"Generally speaking, there was no damage. A small engagement near Wiertje, northeast of Ypres, ended in the British being driven back.

"A British aeroplane was shot down by Lieutenant Immelmann east of Arras and one west of Banpome. The occupants were dead. Lieutenant Boelke brought down two enemy aeroplanes which fell behind the French lines over Fort Marre and near Malancourt, northwest of Verdun. The latter was destroyed by our artillery. By these achievements these officers have put hors de combat their tenth and eleventh enemy aeroplanes respectively.

"A British biplane was compelled to land west of Cambrai after an aerial fight. Its occupants were captured."

WASHINGTON, March 14.—The house merchant marine committee reported favorably today the Johnson bill to ratify the Oregon and Washington compact regarding concurrent jurisdiction over waters of the Columbia river and its tributaries in connection with regulating the fish industry.

REMARKABLE PICTURE SHOWING EXACT SCENE OF MEXICAN BANDIT ATTACK, SKIRMISH AND FLIGHT



This remarkable photograph shows the exact scene of Villa bandit attack. Here is seen the camp of the Thirteenth regiment of U. S. troopers, just outside the village of Columbus, New Mexico, which is also pictured. The bandits, crossing the border in the night, fired buildings in Columbus, shot American citizens as they fled from their burning homes, and stole cavalry horses before the troopers, who were sleeping, were aroused. In a pitched battle that followed troopers and bandits were killed and the bandits fled across the border with the troopers in hot pursuit.